



Prayer Pastors

Training Workbook

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Introduction



Ascension Trust welcomes you to this Prayer Pastor training session and looks forward to your prayers of faith for street pastors.

The Street Pastors Initiative was born as a Christian response to anti-social behaviour in certain areas of the UK. It was covered by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who wanted to make a difference in these areas on our streets. Prayer and the work of God, through his Holy Spirit, continue to be an important prerequisite to the work of Street Pastors.

This Prayer Pastors course has four parts to equip you for the ministry of prayer pastors in the street pastor's ministry.

The first element requires you to attend the Roles and Responsibilities training session. Doing so produces several benefits, such as gaining an insight into how the ministry is carried out on the streets of the community.

Another part of the course, which is linked to the training day, is an independent activity, in preparation and reflection. This activity is designed to encourage you to think about the prayer pastor's role prior to attending the one day course.

A third section of the course ensures that you will gain valuable first-hand experience during an observation with a Street Pastors team for at least one night or patrol session.

The final segment of the course requires you to attend a prayer pastors training day. The training covers a variety of topics as you can see from the table of contents in this workbook.

Throughout the course, it is expected that you will achieve the following four outcomes. Some will be achieved in the independent activity and at least two outcomes will be achieved during the Prayer Pastors training day.

The four outcomes are as follows:

1. To become aware of the roles and responsibilities of Street Pastors.
2. To reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and consider how to pray in relation to these.
3. To consider 'diversity' in the context of the prayer base and how individuals contribute to it.
4. To identify different types of prayer and their appropriateness for situations that street pastors encounter.

The first learning outcome (*to become aware of the roles and responsibilities of the street pastor*) is achieved when you attend and participate in the Street Pastors' Roles and Responsibilities training session.

Going out as an observer with a Street Pastors team for at least one night, or part of a night, helps you to fulfil the second learning outcome (to reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and consider how to pray in relation to these locations).

Learning outcomes three and four will be accomplished during the one day Prayer Pastors training.

We encourage you to use this workbook for your notes and observations as well as to keep track of your progress through the various segments of the Prayer Pastor's course. You might find the chart below helpful.

Prayer Pastors training course		
	Date	Comments
Roles and Responsibilities training		
Preparation and reflection		
Observation with a Street Pastor's team		
Prayer Pastors training day		

A suggested plan for the training day

The following is a suggested way in which to organise the Prayer Pastors training based on a start time of 10:00 am.

10:00 – 10:20	Devotion and prayer Share learning objectives
10:20 – 10:40	Video warm-up activity and introductions.
10:40 – 11:10	‘What is prayer?’
11:10 – 11:30	Visual presentation and discussion of the area.*
11:30 – 11:45	BREAK
11:45 – 12:10	‘Family fortunes’: Prayer postures and ways of praying
12:10 - 12:30	Ingredients for a good prayer base
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 – 2:10	Different types of prayer
2:10 – 2:40	The effects of the spiritual presence of street and prayer pastors
2:40 – 3:00	Concluding ‘prayer stations’ time
3:00 – 3:20	Q & A
3:20 – 3:40	Logistics

Reflections on the time of devotion

1 Warm up activity and introductions

Activity: Watching a video

Watch one of these humorous 'Funny Prayers' You Tube videos.

A funny prayer: <http://youtu.be/NVBBpM-SXX4> (2.14 minutes)

(Key point for consideration: spiritual vocabulary)



OR

The ways people pray: <http://youtu.be/DzaZZsyVXI> (2.38 minutes)

(Key point for consideration: individuals' differences when praying in groups)



Activity: Introduce yourself

Introduce yourself to two people and say in one short sentence what you found funny about the videos.

2 What is prayer?

Group work: What is prayer?

What constitutes prayer and why do we need to pray for street pastors?

Group work: Statements and verses about prayer

You will receive a set of extracts about prayer to read and discuss in your groups. Highlight key words or short phrases that you find inspirational.

Activity: Writing an acrostic poem

Following your thoughts and discussion arising from the activity above, in your small group create (non-rhyming) acrostic poem about what prayer is for street pastors.

P _____

R _____

A _____

Y _____

E _____

R _____

Activity: Summarising

There will be a brief feedback from each group for 'one of the above letters', then summarise the importance of real prayer as being:

- conversation
- expectancy (faith)
- by Father's children
- assisted by the Holy Spirit

 _____

4 'Family fortunes': Prayer postures and ways of praying

Learning Objective

To consider 'diversity' in the context of the prayer base and how individuals contribute to it.

Activity: Play 'Family Fortunes'.

'100 Christians were asked what posture or position they prefer to adopt when they pray. What were the four most popular postures mentioned?'

Ways of praying

Activity: Your preferred ways to pray

What are your 'top three' ways of praying and the context in which you would pray in these ways?

 _____

5 Ingredients for a good prayer base

Activity: What 'ingredients' do we need to have a good prayer base?

In your group, brainstorm and make a list of the elements or ingredients that will make a good prayer base.

 _____

Activity: The commissioning prayer

In this section, you will read and talk about a set of commissioning prayers.

 _____

6 Different types of prayer

Learning Objective

To identify the different types of prayer and their appropriateness for situations that street pastors encounter.

Activity: Matching prayer types


There are a number of different types of prayer referred to in scripture, each of which is appropriate for praying in different situations. It's good to have some understanding of these because these will be your 'tools' at the prayer base!

7 The effects of the spiritual presence of street pastors

Activity: Looking for themes

Read this statement and consider the themes that should be included in prayer at the prayer base.

One of the first observations that is often made by police, about the effects of street pastors in an area, is the significant fall in crime on the streets where street pastors patrol, and the reduction in other forms of anti-social behaviour. This can be explained in part by their physical presence, but we are sure that the most influential factor is the spiritual presence of street pastors. The bible speaks about 'light shining in darkness', consequently, disturbing and disallowing the deeds of darkness/Satan. We believe that street pastors and prayer pastors are a dynamic team, who promote a spiritual change in the atmosphere of an area and this is translated into changes in people's behaviour in an area at night.

 _____

Activity: Looking for themes

Read this statement and consider the themes that should be included in prayer at the prayer base.

'It is important to pray behind the façade of the night-time frivolity.'

To this end consider these as on-going prayer themes throughout the night:


1. safety
2. discernment
3. peace
4. divine appointments
5. wisdom.

✍ _____

8 Concluding 'prayer stations' time

Activity: Praying at various prayer stations

A selection of prayer stations will be set and you are encouraged to pair up and go to as many prayer stations as you can in the time allocated to pray. This session ends with a brief whole group prayer time.

 _____

Questions and answers

Logistics: Dealing with practicalities

- Establish a rota of prayer pastors for the new recruits.
- Ensure everyone can get home at the end of the evening.
- Discuss expected arrival time at the prayer base, or first contact time for home-based prayer pastors.
- Exchange phone numbers, etc.

 _____

Appendix 1

Preparation and reflection

Read this extract from 'Faith on the Streets' (pp.160 -161).

'Most of my fears came from the fact that before I became a prayer pastor I had hardly ever prayed out loud. I'm not a great one for public speaking. But as a prayer pastor I found I was among people who were quite happy to open their and just pray. The mixture of traditions helped me to see that there is no strict formula to praying in a group. I heard some people praying so freely that it helped me to just open my mouth and speak what the Lord was bringing to my mind. Previously I would have analysed what I wanted to say until I completely lost confidence in saying it at all. I know this is also true for another prayer pastor who, before joining the team, had only prayed words from a prayer book.

I think I can pray with much more boldness now. We're all focused on the same thing, and I find the flow of information from the street pastors really useful, even if they are saying the town is quiet tonight. Somebody might pray for something that leads us onto something else. It's like throwing a stone into a pond – the prayers get wider.'

Think about the variety of people who choose to become prayer pastors. Each comes to the role with their personal challenges.

1. Do you identify with this person?
2. Can you appreciate how they might have felt when they first joined?
3. Consider the issues that could arise from the fact that the group consists of people who come from a variety of church and prayer traditions.



Appendix 2

Observation and reflection form

This is a record of feedback following an evening as an observer with a Street Pastors team which can be used for discussion with the Street Pastor Coordinator.

Team/ area route:

Were there any main stopping points?

Location?	What was happening?	Intervention?

Did you observe anyone who you would regard as 'vulnerable'? Who? In what ways were they vulnerable?

Did you observe any location that seemed to you unsafe? In what ways was it unsafe?

Given what you have seen and felt, what would be your five main prayer points for the evening? Why?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 3

Statements about prayer

What do you think?

‘God does nothing but in answer to prayer...’ (John Wesley)

The call to prayer is the Father’s invitation to enter into His presence... into the throne room.

‘Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need’
(Hebrews 4:16, NKJV)

Prayer is our ability to stand in the gap and intercede for nations, cities, communities, churches, families and ordinary people so that the will of God can be enforced over and above the plans of the enemy.

Making our requests known to God allows us to experience the manifestation of God in our lives as well as discover what he is capable of doing.

Prayer is a tool and a weapon, which is available to anyone in Christ; in prayer we discover the authority of the Name of Jesus and how to use it.

Prayer is an opportunity to fellowship and commune with God. Your prayer life creates intimacy with God.

Prayer is the voice of faith to the Father.

Prayer gives a voice to our needs.

‘Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you didn’t know’ (*Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV*)

Prayer is a time when divinity meets with humanity for the fulfilment of divine purposes.

Appendix 4

What is prayer?

Write an 'acrostic' non-rhyming poem about what prayer is.

PRAYER

P _____

R _____

A _____

Y _____

E _____

R _____

Appendix 5

Prayer postures

100 Christian were surveyed. What were their preferred prayer postures?

Percentages	Preferred posture
36%	
20%	
18%	
14%	
12%	

Appendix 6

Types of prayer

INTERCESSION	PRAYER OF FAITH	THANKSGIVING
BINDING AND LOOSING	AGREEMENT	PRAISE AND WORSHIP
Adoring and exalting God for who he is	Acting in prayer on behalf of someone else	Articulating gratitude to God for what he has done
Asking God or petitioning for a change or particular outcome	Joining with others to pray for a person or situation	Asserting spiritual authority through Jesus
Matthew 18:19 - 20	Mark 11:24	Hebrews 11:1 Matthew 13:58
Philippians 4:6	Luke 11:2	Luke 11: 41
Ephesians 1:15 - 18	Matthew 18:18	Philippians 4:6
Ephesians 6:18	Psalm 95	Colossians 4:2

Appendix 7

Prayer Pastors commissioning statements

Ideas for commissioning prayers' for prayer pastors.

7.1 An order for commissioning to Christian service

Dear friends, today we recognise the ministry of *Name(s)* and commission *him (her, each of them)* to a special task in the service of Jesus Christ.

Name, in the name of this congregation I commission you to this work and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you,
that in this and in all things
you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, look with favour upon *Name* (these persons) who today (re)affirm(s) commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name.

Give him (her, each of them) courage, patience, and vision;
and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation
of witness to the world and of service to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Source] <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/an-order-for-commissioning-to-christian-service>

7.2 A commissioning prayer

God our Father, as disciples of Jesus, we accept our commission from you to invest our lives in others.

Give these workers in your harvest the power, wisdom and courage to boldly live the Kingdom life in all the places of your choosing.

May Jesus be seen in their lives and may they always and everywhere model the life of Christ with authenticity and great zeal.

Give them eyes to see the path of service you desire for them and ears to hear the cry of the world's needs that you have equipped them to meet.

Father, as your Son modelled for us what it means to be a servant by washing the feet of the disciples, may they exhibit a servant attitude in all they do.

May you be their Lord, light, and guardian in the work you call them to. Grant them perseverance when tired, that they would not grow weary in doing well.

We commission them into your service, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

7.3 A commissioning prayer

Almighty God, we praise you, we give you our thanks for your grace toward us in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again, through whom we have life, hope, and purpose.

We thank you for your gift to us of the Word of God, witnessing to us of your everlasting love and truth.

We thank you for the gifts of service that you by your Holy Spirit have given to all your people, so that we may each serve you, and serve others.

We thank you this day for _____, for your love and Holy Spirit life toward him/her, for the work of the Holy Spirit in his/her life, for his/her service for you, for all the gifts and graces you have given.

As _____ takes up this additional role of praying for street pastors, we pray that your Holy Spirit may give him/her a renewed joy and assurance in the knowledge that you will lead and enable him / her.

We pray that you may refresh _____ from on high, that you may equip and empower him/her for ongoing service.

May he/she always worship you with sincerity and wholeness of heart, as he/she join in prayer with other prayer pastors.

May he/she have a sensitivity to your leading, and to the needs of all your people through prayer.

May he/she have the humble attitude of a true servant of God.

Deepen us all in the experience of your grace. Make us more aware of the tasks you have for us all, within your church, and especially within your world beyond this church. May we all be more aware of the gifts you have given to each. Strengthen prayer pastors together. May your peace be in their midst. Empower the witness and the service of them all.

For we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Taken in part from: <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-ministers/worship-resources/special-services/celebrating-communion/chapter-7-a-prayer-of-commiss>

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